

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Kazuya SATO et al.	)	<b><u>PRIOR APPLICATION:</u></b>
	)	
Divisional Application of	)	Group Art Unit: 2877
Application No.: 09/783,295	)	
Filed: February 15, 2001	)	Examiner: Tu T. Nguyen
	)	
For: METHOD FOR INSPECTING	)	
EXPOSURE APPARATUS	)	

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being concurrently filed with the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents were previously submitted in a prior application, application no. 09/783,295, filing date February 15, 2001, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the

documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

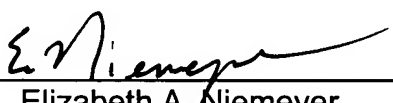
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 23, 2004

By:   
Elizabeth A. Niemeyer  
Reg. No. 52,070

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No. 4329.2509-01	Appln. No.
Applicant Kazuya SATO et al.	
Filing Date	Group: 2877

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
		6,317,198	11/13/01	Sato et al.	355	77	
		5,973,771	10/99	Hibbs et al.	356	121	
		5,493,402	2/96	Hirukawa	356	400	
		4,906,081	3/90	Yasuda	359	723	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
		2000-21732	01/21/00	Japan			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce